

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18, and 20-24, of which claims 1, 7, and 14 are independent, are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed November 5, 2003, claims 1-8, 10, 14-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,155,694 (“Lyons ‘694”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,584,572 (“Ishikawa ‘572”).

Although Applicant maintains that Lyons ‘694 in view of Ishikawa ‘572 fails to teach applicants claimed invention of a tubular light source reflector, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has included a Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 along with supporting exhibits. The Declaration operates to swear behind Lyons ‘694. More specifically, the Declaration states that the claimed invention was reduced to practice in the United States prior to April 16, 1998 (*i.e.*, the earliest possible filing date of any subject matter disclosed in Lyons ‘694). Accordingly, the rejection of pending claims 1-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18 and 20-24 based upon the Lyons ‘694 reference should be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, it is submitted that Applicants have overcome each of the Examiner's objections and rejections. It is submitted, therefore, that the present patent application, including pending claims 1-8, 10-11, 14, 17-18 and 20-24 is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

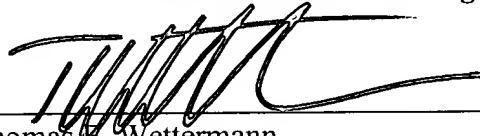
If for any reason, the application is not considered to be in condition for allowance on the next Office Action and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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